

FROM HONOLULU TO THE SUPREME COURT OF CHINA



One of Hawaii's transient visitors during the next few months will be A. Leefong Ahlo, a Honolulu born and bred, and now at the head of the supreme court of China.

China has picked him, with several others, to attend the international prison conference in Washington, and he will be on his way to that when he steps ashore at Honolulu and greets his old friends.

His mother and sister still reside here, his father having died some four years ago. His father was L. Ahlo, once a famous rice magnate, a prominent dry goods dealer and a Chinese merchant of considerable note in this city. Ahlo, deceased, was in the same circle as Goo Kim and Wong Kwai, Goo Kim now also being of memory and not of this life. There are many of the late Ahlo's friends here who will be glad and honored to welcome the son who has so nobly fulfilled his father's ambitions for him.

China's First Participation.

The Peking dispatch to the Herald says: China's sincere desire to absorb into the administration of her criminal law the best of western theory and experience is demonstrated by the appointment of delegates to represent the empire at the eighth international prison congress, which is to convene in Washington on October 2.

This will be China's first participation in the international movement for prison reform. The delegation selected by the prince regent consists of progressive young men who are taking a prominent part in the work of reshaping the system of jurisprudence of the empire and in the practical administration of the laws. Two of them are judges of the Tali Yuan, or supreme court; two represent the Fa Pu, or

board of laws, the government board corresponding to the department of justice at Washington.

Suite of High Degree.

These four official delegates will be accompanied by several men holding high posts in other departments having to do with the administration of criminal laws and the infliction of punishment, who go as non-official delegates. During the last five years a great deal has been accomplished in the codification and reshaping of the criminal law in China, and a decided impetus has been given to the cause of prison reform. This latter has, however, been largely confined to Peking and other large cities, the exceptions being a few places in the interior where progressive officials have been able to make their influence felt. While the sum of accomplishment in this direction may not be large, it has been sufficient to act as a leaven that is surely, if slowly, moving the mass of conservatism.

Manifestly the prison problem in China differs materially from that in most other lands. While there is apparently full warrant for the assertion that there are fewer crimes in proportion to the population than in any other part of the world, China has a criminal class. Among four hundred million people there are bound to be many whose instincts can not be curbed, even by

the marvelously strong repressive influence of Chinese family life. Poverty, too, plays the same important part in developing criminals that it does in other lands.

Condition of the Poor.

This latter phase is of prime importance in considering the extent and character of amelioration to be applied to conditions of prison life. It is contended that anything approaching the luxurious condition of prison life in other countries—by comparison with the conditions under which China's poor are compelled to exist—would fill the jails and prisons to overflowing with those who prefer ease and comfort to the strenuous life. It may be there is not warrant for this contention, in view of the limitless energy of this people, but the possibility is sufficient to cause officialdom to go slow in adopting and adapting the theories of western reformers.

The Chinese view was well expressed by Dr. Wu Ting-fang upon the occasion of a visit to one of the large penal institutions in the United States. "It is not to me so much a wonder that you keep people in such an institution," said Doctor Wu, "but how you manage to keep people out!"

The improvements that have been made and the lines upon which the progressives are working have to do

particularly with conditions of prisoners during the period of detention for trial—the period when there should be a presumption of innocence in their favor. Upon this, as upon all other features of the work of the international prison congress, the Chinese delegates will be found of open mind, keenly eager to learn those things that may be of value to their country.

The official delegates are: Kung-pah King and A. Leefong Ahlo, judge of the supreme court of the empire; Chien Hsu, attorney-general of Peking and Justice Shih-ying Hsu of the board of laws.

Justice King, though a comparatively young man, has made an enviable reputation as a public official. Not only has he had much experience as a presiding judge, but he has been a member of a number of important commissions relating to the branch of the public service with which he is connected, which work has taken him abroad.

Judge Ahlo is, in a sense, an American product, having been born in Honolulu. After an academic and collegiate education in Honolulu and San Francisco, he went to Cambridge, England, for his law course. In the work of codifying the laws and reshaping them along modern lines, he has played an important part, and he is destined for high place in Chinese official life.

Justice Hsu and Attorney-General Hsu are young men well versed in Chinese law and in the precedents upon which this law has been built. They belong to the class of China educated young men who are keenly alive to the necessity of progress, and by their work are contributing greatly toward it.

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DEFENDANT ARRESTS COMPLAINING WITNESS

After Sticking Knife in Him, Has His Victim Pinched for Playing Cop.

Practical reciprocity was exemplified in the Ewa district court yesterday, when Manuel Lopes got one year in jail for impersonating an officer. Lopes has nobody but himself to blame, as his original entry into legal circles was made as the complaining witness.

A few nights ago he wandered into a Porto Rican camp and threatened to throw everybody out of it. As he was hunting for trouble, he found just what most people pursuing that vocation usually find—plain and unadulterated trouble.

His challenge had not stood for more

than a few minutes when one Manuel Cruz stuck a knife in him. He was not placed hors de combat to such an extent that he could not answer a warrant, and Seseirino was soon behind the bars for assault with a dangerous weapon.

After being arrested, Seseirino went out a warrant charging Lopes with impersonating an officer. He claimed that when the other made his official entry into Ewa's peaceful Porto Rican district he was posing as a guardian of the peace and sheltering himself behind the protection of a bogus law. The charges were proved in court, and Lopes commences his sentence.

Seseirino will come up for trial tomorrow. Another curious feature of the case is that the principal witness for Seseirino against Manuel is the principal witness for Manuel against Seseirino, and is fast becoming the witness fees.

Model—I think I shall spend a week in Paris. Artist—How the fellow can you afford to do that? Model—Why, but I can afford to think I will—traded Bits.

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TO ENLARGE HILO FOR THE TOURISTS

Plans Being Made to Increase Accommodations for the Volcano Visitors.

HILO, August 14.—Besides thinking of building a couple of large stores, on the site of the Hotel Demosthenes on Waiakoune street, the Lycergus interests have in contemplation the erection of two new cottages on the Hilo hotel grounds. There are times when Hilo is crowded with visitors, especially when the steamer Wilhelmina is in port. Now that the upstairs rooms in the former Peacock building are being converted into offices there is less accommodation for plantation people, commercial travelers and others who make frequent visits to Hilo. It is in order to supply the need that the two new cottages may be added shortly to the Hilo hotel equipment. The plan is to make these cottages larger than the others on the grounds, symmetrical in appearance but having more rooms than the others, each cottage able to accommodate at least a dozen people with comfort.

CANAL NOW ABOUT TWO-THIRDS DUG

WASHINGTON.—Up to July 1 the total amount of excavation done on the Panama canal was 110,763,623 cubic yards, leaving only 63,902,971 cubic yards to be removed. In June, 2,626,609 cubic yards were taken out, and 124,000 cubic yards of concrete were laid in locks, dams and spillways. These figures show that the excavation is about two-thirds finished.

Classified expenditures up to May 31 were \$189,554,694, divided as follows: Department of civil administration, \$4,075,274; department of sanitation, \$11,411,547; department of construction and engineering, \$93,068,014; and general items, \$81,101,547.

Total expenditures on purchase and construction of canal (June yet to be classified) are \$204,596,342.

Cholly—May I have the next waltz? Widow—Yes, but dance slowly, as I only recently have gone into mourning.—The Club-Fellow.

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LOCAL HONOR FOR AUSTRIA'S EMPEROR

Formal honor will be extended Franz Joseph, the venerable emperor of Austria-Hungary, Thursday, by his official representative here and the consuls of other nations.

On the day mentioned the monarch will reach his eightieth birthday, having been 62 years on the throne. Local observances will consist merely of the hoisting of national flags over the various consulates. There will be no reception.

CLOSE SALOON FOR TWO WEEKS

(Continued from Page One.)

board to take steps to explain the term "small quantities" for their benefit. Farm Corn, appearing for the company, stated that they had understood that, though small quantities of wine might not be sold by a wholesaler, any old quantity of gin would go. The board enlightened him and instructed the secretary to prepare an interpretation of the term for the benefit of all wholesalers.

Kojima was up on the same charge as that against Wong Chung Lung & Co.; he will get one of the secretary's explanatory letters. Incidentally he promised not to do it again.

Wagner of the Mint saloon was brought blushing before the board and Chairman Watkins told him he was accused of being his own best customer, both recently and at the time his license was granted. Wagner, shifting uneasily, admitted that he had been full several times recently, but really, he wouldn't do it any more. The board told him he and his partner might find themselves minus a license if he did. The board would not stand for the way he had been carrying on of late.

Sunuchi, who runs a restaurant near River street, was granted the Sunday privilege, it being specified that he may not sell liquor except with meals. His privilege is the same as that of the Grill.

The application of Flora Harvey and George W. Macy for a license for the Kilohana saloon, part of the estate of the late Frank Harvey, was granted.

Manuel Silva was granted a license for a saloon at 161 Maunakea street and went away shaking hands with himself.

The board voted to permit the transfer of the license of the Criterion saloon from Colonel McCarthy to Mr. Peacock, who has bought McCarthy out.

Two applications for second class license at Waipahu were received and added to the one already on file. A petition from all the prominent residents of Waipahu was also received praying that no more licenses be granted for that place.

The board adjourned after a long session, during a part of which a big chunk of the accumulated minutes was disposed of.

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